

**Serial No. 10/085,527
Atty. Doc. No. 1999P03591WOUS**

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1-10, 12-13 and 18-20, canceled claims 11 and 14-17, and added new claims 21-25. Thus, claims 1-10, 12-13, and 18-25 are presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Examiner's objection to priority:

Applicant intends the instant application to be the national stage of International Application No. PCT/EP00/08049. The Examiner notes that to obtain such priority benefit claim, Applicant should use the procedures set forth in 37 CFR 1.78. Applicant's counsel has re-reviewed the procedures of 37 CFR 1.78 and believes these procedures have been followed. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to more specifically identify what documents (e.g. certified copy of priority document), forms, or language the Examiner requires in order to acknowledge Applicant's priority benefit claim.

Response to Examiner's rejections under section 103:

Claims 1, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the Examiner contending that these claims are obvious over Taylor et al. (USPN 5,520,516) in view of what is obvious to one skilled in the art as well as in view of McComas et al. (USPN Re. 35611).

Taylor teaches a method of roughening a turbine blade tip prior to application of a ceramic coating by grit blasting, and is directed toward spraying the ceramic coating with particular parameters to produce macrocracks of a particular orientation and length to improve

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wear resistance of the blade tip. McComas teaches toward a manual method of stripping a worn turbine component of its ceramic coating using a high pressure water wash.

In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention recites: a (1) measuring a contour line of a curved component surface geometry, (2) inputting the measured geometry into a control system, and (3) controlling a plurality spray parameters via the control system based on the geometry to direct the ceramic particle source toward the metal component. Neither Taylor nor McComas teach or suggest any of these claim limitations, let alone all of them.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 18 are patentable. Dependent claims 2-10, 12-14 and 19-24 are patentable based upon their dependency from claims 1 and 18 as well as on their own merit. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Discussion of new claims 21-25:

New claims 21-25 further define the scope of the invention, as described in the specification and drawings. In view of the foregoing remarks regarding the other claims, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-25 are patentable. Applicants thus respectfully request allowance of claims 21-25.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter

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this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, including the fees specified in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 (c), 1.17(a)(1) and 1.20(d) for total independent claims in excess of 3, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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